

CLAIMS

SUB B17

1 1. *(Original)* A method in which search items returned in  
2 response to a present user's present search request are prioritized  
3 according to an algorithm which assigns greater weight to interest  
4 indications by relatively similar users making relatively similar  
5 search requests than to interest indications by relatively dissimilar  
6 users and than to interest indications making relatively dissimilar  
7 search requests.

1 2. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claim 1 comprising the  
2 steps of:  
3 receiving a search request from a user;  
4 assigning said user to a community;  
5 assigning said search request to a search query;  
6 submitting said query so as to yield a set of response items; and  
7 prioritizing said response items as a function of prior search  
8 requests by said community.

1 3. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claim 2 further comprising  
2 tracking indications of interest by said user in individual ones of  
3 said response items and storing the results of said tracking on a  
4 per-user and/or per-community basis.

1 4. *(Original)* A method as recited in Claim 3 further comprising  
2 a step of using said results in prioritizing items collected in  
3 response to subsequent search requests by other users assigned to  
4 said community.

1 5. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 3 wherein, all else  
2 being equal, interest indications associated with a community are  
3 given greater weight than other interest indications by the parent of  
4 said community.

1 6. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said user  
2 is assigned to a community in part as a function of said indications  
3 of interest.

1 7. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said user  
2 is assigned to a community as a function of a selection of said  
3 community by said user.

1 8. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said user  
2 is assigned to a community as a function of a profile of said user  
3 existing before said search request is made.

1 9. (Original) A system comprising:  
2 a search-request receiver for receiving a search request from a  
3 user;  
4 a community assigner for assigning said user to a community;  
5 a search-request parser for assigning said search request to a  
6 query;  
7 a search engine for collecting search items in response to said  
8 query; and  
9 a prioritizer for prioritizing said search items as a function of  
10 previous searches by said community.

1 10. *(Original)* A system as recited in Claim 9 further comprising  
2 a tracker for tracking indications of interest by a user in search  
3 items collected in response to said search request from said user,  
4 said prioritizer using said indications of interest to determine said  
5 function for future queries.

1 11. *(Original)* A system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said  
2 community assigner assigns said user to a community for said  
3 future search requests at least in part as a function of said  
4 indications of interest.

1 12. *(Currently amended)* A database comprising:  
2 a key field identifying hit counts;  
3 a second field indicating  $\alpha$ -values for respective hit counts;  
4 a query context field indicating query contexts for respective hit  
5 counts; and  
6 a user and/or a community field indicating respective users  
7 and/or communities associated with said hit counts.

1 13. *(Original)* A database as recited in Claim 12 further  
2 comprising a decay field for indicating times associated with said  
3 hit counts.

1 14. *(Currently amended)* A database as recited in Claim 12  
2 further comprising of a periodic update system to update the  
3 community record counts from the user record counts.